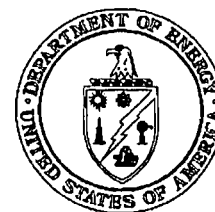




Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office
Fernald Closure Project
175 Tri-County Parkway
Springdale, Ohio 45246
(513) 648-3155



DEC 21 2004

Mr. Gene Jablonowski, Remedial Project Manager
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V, SR-6J
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

DOE-0101-05

Mr. Tom Schneider, Project Manager
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
401 East 5th Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

Dear Mr. Jablonowski and Mr. Schneider:

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON DRAFT TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL PLAN FOR THE SILOS 1 AND 2 PROJECT

- References:
1. Letter, Gene Jablonowski to Johnny Reising, "Draft Transportation and Disposal Plan for the Silos 1 and 2 Project," dated November 17, 2004
 2. Letter, Tom Schneider to Johnny Reising, "Silos 1 and 2 Project Transportation and Disposal Plan," dated November 18, 2004
 3. DOE Letter, DOE-0393-04, William Taylor to Gene Jablonowski and Tom Schneider, "Transportation and Disposal Plan for the Silos 1 and 2 Project," dated September 14, 2004
 4. DOE Letter, DOE-0060-05, William Taylor to Gene Jablonowski and Tom Schneider, "Draft Final Explanation of Significant Differences for Operable Unit 4," dated November 15, 2004

The purpose of this letter is to provide information in response to the referenced disapproval of the Draft Transportation and Disposal Plan for the Silos 1 and 2 Project (References 1 and 2).

The Draft Transportation and Disposal Plan (Reference 3), reflecting the baseline assumption of direct truck transportation to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) was submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) in accordance with the Remedial Action Work Plan for Silos 1 and 2. The primary basis given by both agencies for disapproval of the draft plan was that it did not reflect the alternate

Mr. Gene Jablonowski
Mr. Tom Schneider

-2-

DOE-0101-05


disposal options being evaluated in accordance with the Draft Final Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for Operable Unit 4 (Reference 4).

As was discussed at a meeting between U.S. EPA, OEPA, the Department of Energy (DOE), and Fluor Fernald, Inc. (Fluor Fernald) on December 7, 2004, procurement processes are currently underway to implement temporary offsite storage and/or permanent disposal of Silos 1, 2, and 3 materials in accordance with the ESD. Fluor Fernald anticipates receiving final approval of the ESD, and awarding contracts for temporary offsite storage and/or permanent disposal of Silos 1, 2, and 3 materials, in early calendar year 2005.

In lieu of responding to the referenced comments on the Draft Transportation and Disposal Plan for Silos 1 and 2 at this time, the DOE requests that comment responses, and a revised Transportation and Disposal Plan reflecting the selected disposal approach, be submitted to the U.S. EPA and OEPA within 45 days of awarding a contract for temporary offsite storage and/or permanent disposal of Silos 1 and 2 material. A revised Transportation and Disposal Plan for Silo 3 would be submitted within 45 days of award of a storage and/or disposal contract for Silo 3 material.

If there are any questions concerning this issue, please contact John Sattler at 513-648-3145.

Sincerely,


for William J. Taylor
Director

cc:

J. Sattler, OH/FCP
J. Saric, USEPA-V, SR-6J
T. Schneider, OEPA-Dayton (three copies total of enclosure)
F. Bell, ATSDR
M. Cullerton, Tetra-Tech
M. Shupe, HSI GeoTrans
R. Vandegrift, ODH
K. Alkema, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS01
S. Beckman, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS20
D. Carr, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS77
T. Hagen, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS01
D. Powell, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS64
ECDC, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS52-7
AR Coordinator, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS78